

WHEN MUST CANISTERS BE CHANGED?



Dear Half-Mast,

How often must NBC NCOs change the canisters on the M40/M42-series masks in order to protect soldiers from agents like anthrax?

SFC J.P.



Dear Sergeant J.P.,

If you're operating where there have been no chemical attacks and no blood agent CK (cyanogen chloride) threat, change the canister annually.

In an area with no confirmed chemical attacks but a CK threat in a climate that's cold and humid or warm and moderately humid, change the canister annually. Change it every 39 weeks when it's hot and dry. Change it every 10 weeks when it's hot and humid.

For units that have experienced chemical attacks, change the canister every 30 days.

Whenever a soldier has trouble drawing breath through the canister, it should be changed.

For more information, see FM 3-4, NBC Protection. If you don't have a copy, your pubs clerk can order it with IDN 110736 and PIN 058794.

SB 3-30-2, Canister and Filter Elements (Serviceability Lists), has info on which canisters are still good. It's part of EM 0045, the CD-ROM that contains most of the NBC TMs. Unopened canisters have a 5-year renewable shelf life.

Half-Mast